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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

EXCISE

E B6

Rec'd fr Georgetown 11/30/77

761

TO : File

DATE: January 13, 1975

FROM : M.E. Barnes, Vice Consul

SUBJECT: People's Temple Agricultural Mission

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On Jan. 6, 1975 I received a visit fro[redacted] of the People's Temple Agri Mission situated in the North West District. They came to speak to me about adopting an Amerindian child. After we finished with that little item they handed me a proposed press release and this initiated a discussion of the recent wave of publicity in the wake of their "healing service" held at Sacred Heart Church. They said that the Church was aware of the nature of the service. [redacted] said that after the first article (headline - Sacred Heart Embarrassed) a high GOG official told them not to worry he would take care of matters. After the third article (headline - Unauthenticated) he changed his tune stating that it was a theological dispute to be settled between People's Temple and the church. He couldn't and wouldn't attempt to intervene. [redacted] labeled the article just short of libel. He said it was very cleverly written. He stated that the healings were obviously unauthenticated as no physician had been present to verify. They felt compelled to publish a rejoinder - I advised against fanning the flames - to no avail. They further stated that the matter had been discussed with their trustees and if the Guyanese didn't want them here they would just pull up and leave, because there were lots of places where people doing good Christian work would be welcome.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE 3/2/87
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan